

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 /081 W

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R 140929Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4775

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, CH, PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: FONOFF COMMENTS ON JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS AND PEKING
DEVELOPMENTS

REF: HONG KONG 00529

1. FONOFF CHINA-WATCHERS SHARE REFTEL'S ASSESSMENT THAT CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LIAO CHENG-CHIH'S REMARKS AT BANQUET FOR DIET UPPER HOUSE SPEAKER KENZO KONO JANUARY 12 RELECT NO CHANGE IN CHINESE POSITION ON INCLUSION OF ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. FONOFF CHINA DIVISION DEPDIR IKEDA OBSERVED TO EMBOFF JANUARY 14 THAT RIGIDITY IN CHINESE POLICY ON THIS POINT WAS NEITHER SURPRISING NOT PARTICULARLY DISTURBING TO JAPANESE. IN LIGHT OF PRESENT CHINESE INTERNAL PROBLEMS, JAPAN COULD NOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT MUCH MOVEMENT ON PFT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HAVING REAFFIRMED DESIRE OF NEW JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PRC THROUGH
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KONO MISSION, JAPAN WOULD NOW BE CONTENT TO WAIT FOR CHINESE LEADERSHIP CRISIS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE CONSIDERING NEXT MOVE.

2. IKEDA ADMITTED THAT RECENT EVENTS IN PEKING HAD REVEALED THAT INTERNAL DISSENSION WITHIN PARTY CENTER WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN FONOFF HAD PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED. HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT UNUSUAL POSTER ACTIVITY IN TIEN AN MEN HAD PERSISTED BEYOND FIRST

DAY AND GUESSED THAT MOMENTUM WITHIN PEKING WAS BUILDING UP "FOR SOMETHING BIG", PRESUMABLY ON JANUARY 15 ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU MEMORIAL CEREMONY. IKEDA HYPOTHESIZED THREE-CORNERED STRUGGLE MIGHT BE UNDERWAY--HUA AND UNSPECIFIED SUPPORTERS ATTEMPTING TO HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST EFFORTS OF YEH CHIEN-YING, LI HSIEN-NING AND PERHAPS HSU SHIH-YU TO BRING BACK TENG WHILE WU TEH AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE TARRED BY "GANG OF FOUR" ASSOCIATIONS WERE SCRAMBLING TO SAVE THEIR OWN NECKS.

3. IKEDA SENSED THAT TENG'S RETURN TO PUBLIC PROMINENCE WAS IMMINENT AND INDEED, MIGHT ALREADY HAVE BEEN DECIDED UPON. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT FUKUDA EMISSARY KENZO KONO HAD MET WITH TENG SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST. DURING HIS PRESENT VISIT TO PEKING, KONO HAD ASKED LIAO CHENG-CHIH WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH HIS OLD FRIEND TENG. LIAO REPORTEDLY REPLIED: "IT IS TOO EARLY, BUT PERHAPS IN 10 OR 15 DAYS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE."

HODGSON

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